

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday February 22, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Allan Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Ned Bixler, Allan Walker, James Korner, Scott Tillmann, Robert Valentine, and Todd Carusillo first selectman. Excused Bill Lane.

Seating of Alternatives: A motion was made by Bob Valentine to seat Russell Murdock and was seconded by Scott Tillmann.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Amended meeting minutes of January 25, 2023* to be filed. In a motion made by Bob Valentine, seconded by Allan Walker, and voted unanimously to approve *Amended meeting minutes of January 25, 2023*.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Received and reviewed Financial Reports from Debbie Franklin dated Jan 31, 2023. It was noted that the Board of Finance should think about things the Land Acquisition Fund could be used for now that it is getting close to \$800,000. It was discussed that the Streets lights belong to Eversource and the cost per KWh has increased. It was noted that it is not necessary to include the accounting consultant's detail report pages with the agendas.

TAX COLLECTORS REPORT - Received and reviewed The Tax Collector's report dated Jan 31, 2023

SELECTMAN'S REPORT. Todd is investigating a better pension investment option than John Hancock.

The town received an increase from George Sinnamon from \$13,500 to \$14,000 for the next few years for the Town of Goshen audit.

Todd met with Region 6 Superintendent Chris Leone last week and reports that the Region 6 budget initially at 8.1% increase will look more like 8.2% due to an increase in insurance to \$512,000 per district. Chris Leone will do a town tour on Tuesday 2/28/2023 starting at Goshen Center School at 6:00 pm and then will present the budget to the Board of Finance on March 22, 2023.

QuickBooks expires in May 2023, and Debbie Franklin requested the upgrade to the enhanced paycheck software. It is \$949 for the initial fee, \$500 for the annual fee and \$5 per employee per paycheck. It was discussed that the enhanced paycheck software handles the W2, W9 and similar requirements and otherwise a more expensive payroll company would be needed to do that. The fiscal office will be over budget due to the timing of the increased fee.

Chip Roraback the town attorney, said that Holmes road is a legal road, and the town should move forward to upgrade the road once the subdivision is approved.

The new John Deere tractor was received and the check for \$151,815 was sent last week.

The selectman will hold a meeting about the costs of tipping fees for the commercial and residential people who have commercial type front loaders containers. Todd asked Paul Collins, the Recycling Coordinator, to include in an article for Goshen Topics that Goshen will split the costs of composting bins to encourage residents to purchase and use them. That budget will be adjusted accordingly.

A library employee at the top of the pay scale was given a 1% nominal raise last year. She received a \$679.56 stipend in 2019. She has requested another stipend and will be given \$674.96 split into quarterly payments. The library budget will be adjusted accordingly.

The Building Inspector is an independent contractor and he asked to be put on the town insurance and he would pay for it out of pocket, an expected cost of \$1580 per month for his wife and him. Todd will research this to understand if this can be done for a non-employee.

Bob Valentine made a motioned to contract for the audit with George Sinnamon for the next three years. It was seconded by Ned Bixler and passed unanimously.

BUDGET REVIEW:

BOARD OF ASSESSORS - DEPARTMENT 31

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$90,458.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$94,347.00

Increase is due to the Assessor Wages Salary increase and an additional 50 hrs. for field inspection.

CIVIL PREPAREDNESS - DEPARTMENT 29

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$7,675.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$7,675.00

CONSERVATION COMMISSION - DEPARTMENT 44

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$1,364.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$1,364.00

CONSERVATION OF HEALTH - DEPARTMENT 51

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 77,952.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 84,261.00

The increase in Paramedic Option of \$6,215 is based on past year's trend/average number of calls and a fee of \$320.00 each time a Paramedic is dispatch to Goshen. It was suggested that the Fire Company should start charging for EMS calls.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION – DEPARTMENT 6

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$1,553.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$1,565.00

PLANNING & ZONING - DEPARTMENT 41

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 3,282.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 3,582.00

STREETLIGHTS – DEPARTMENT 55

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 15,147.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 15,147.00

TAX COLLECTOR- DEPARTMENT 12

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 51,172.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 54,320.00

Todd to determine if the salary increase is included per last note on Budget projection.

TOWN CLERK- DEPARTMENT 11

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 89,892.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 96,047.00

Increase in salary for the experience of the Assistant Town Clerk.

Bob Valentine asked Todd for a recommendation from the Board of Selectmen for a merit budget to be used for employee increases. Todd will baseline similar towns in this area and report for the next meeting.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS - DEPARTMENT 42

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$1,610.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$1,610.00

BUILDING OFFICIAL - DEPARTMENT 05

Current Budget 2022-2023 \$78,731.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$93,776.00

Increase is due to Building Official's compensation with estimated building permit fees at 30% and \$20,000 base compensation.

ELECTIONS - DEPARTMENT 14

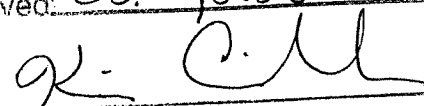
Current Budget 2022-2023 \$ 24,913.00 Proposed Budget 2023-2024 \$ 26,003.00

This budget does not include the impact of Connecticut Early Voting Legislation expected to begin November 2023. It costs the town \$10,000 per day for one day municipal elections and \$14,000 for one day presidential elections.

ADJOURN: Bob Valentine made a motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Scott Tillman
The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m



Lee Kennedy
Board of Finance Clerk

Received Feb. 24, 2023 12:00 P.M

Asst. Goshen Town Clerk